

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
of San Luis Obispo County
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Friday, June 18, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting- <https://slohealth.zoom.us/j/98579656908?pwd=RDViTytDMmZ6ZG9DaHFBYVVFdjBUZz09>

Present: Isiah Gomer, Verena Latona-Tahlman, Chuck Jehle, Judy Mahan
Absent: Kirk Coviello, John Cascamo, Michael Specchierla
Staff: Dawn Boulanger, Sarah Hayter, Diana Marin
Guest: Allison Schiavo, Erica Crawford

1. Call to Order:

Chair Isiah Gomer: called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M. **Quorum.**

2. Public Comment:

Chair Gomer: noted no public comment on public line.

3. Consent Items:

3.1 Approve the December 17, 2020 and February 18, 2021 Minutes

Motion: Chcuk Jehel

Second: Verena Latona-Tahlman

Abstentions: None

Motion Passed Unanimously

4. Presentation:

4.1 AJCC and Morro Bay Chamber – Presentation on Merchant Job Fair held May 20, 2021.

Allison Schiavo (guest) and Erica Crawford (guest) presented on the Merchant Job Fair held May 20, 2021. Erica reported that employers appreciated the effort but didn't necessarily feel that the fair filled all the positions that they need filled. It worked well for them because they did not need to leave their establishments to participate. Promotion collateral was created by the Eckerd team at the America's Job Center of CA (AJCC) and shared with approximately 900 email recipients. The Morro Bay Chamber and Eckerd staff at the AJCC put out a press release that was picked up by KSBY. Lastly the Eckerd team at the AJCC created a map with all the participating businesses that had a brief description of the job opening that included a QR code. The Eckerd team also did some direct outreach to local businesses and involved Morro Bay High School to engage students as well. Next steps could include. Outcomes included- 13 positions filled, and 42 applications were filed.

5. AJCC Update:

5.1 Receive Report on AJCC Business Services

Allison Schiavo (guest) presented the item which provided an update on the San Luis Obispo America's Job Center of CA (AJCC). Allison stated that the aside from the Morro Bay event that took place in June, they also hosted an open-air Job Fair in their parking lot with a neighboring business, BBSI, on June 11th from 1-3 PM. 22 people showed up for the job fair to apply for jobs at 10 businesses. Most open positions were for Class A drivers and mostly entry level job opportunities such as landscape and laborers. Talent pipeline is minimal at the moment although that may change as EDD will be reinstating the job search requirement for UI recipients. Due to lack of job seekers, reverse on-the-job training has been the approach. AJCC is still a job developer shy of a full team. An offer was made, and Eckerd is hoping to have a full team by July 1st. Isiah Gomer asked the small

business reporting requirements when terminating an employee. Isiah also brought up the concern with sharing PII with the job center without the employee's consent. Allison to sent Fact sheet to Workforce Development Board staff by next meeting.

5. Information/Discussion:

5.1 Receive Update on Commercial Driver's License Prep Course

Isiah Gomer (chair) presented the item which provided an update on the status of the Commercial License Preparation Course. Isiah reported that the school districts have trainers in place now, however, WBD staff should consider reaching out to Truck Driver's Institute in Santa Maria to consider opening satellite branch in San Luis Obispo County in partnership with County Office of Education. Per Isiah, many employers are still in need of commercial drivers. Dawn Boulanger (staff) stated that the Truck Driver's Institute headquarters are in Watsonville so if outreach is conducted it should be done to Watsonville location. Allison Schiavo (guest) stated that in her experience DMV closures and hold-ups have been the biggest barrier with licensing. Dawn Boulanger also suggested on-the-job training for training new drivers. Allison agreed and confirmed that it would be a great option as pay increases apply.

5.2 Discuss AJCC Business Services Outreach Plan

Isiah Gomer (chair) and Allison Schiavo (guest) presented the item which reiterated the need to better share the need for the services. Dawn Boulanger stated that we can continue to ask this group about where and how the message about the AJCC services could be broadcasted. This is an ongoing process about how to broadcast message. Chuck Jehel (member) stated that his clients could benefit from hearing about services. Diana Marin (staff) stated that a presentation could be put together including partner agencies to fill up a whole presentation. Allison to provide a one-page sheet of AJCC services. Isiah Gomer (chair) also stated that it could be shared with HRCC, EAC, and chambers too. Dawn Boulanger also referenced the Business Services Guide for resources, it is expected to be revised in July. Isiah recommended putting in a revision date to inform public of when it was last revised.

5.3 Review and Discuss COVID-19 Small Business Grant Survey Results

Diana Marin (staff) presented the item which was part of the agenda. Diana reported that only 5 of the business had responded. All respondents shared that the overall experience with staff and the application process was excellent and timely. She also stated that Business Health was reported all over the spectrum. Some businesses reported below average and another stated that they were 3 times busier than ever. Staffing was reported as an issue for most businesses. Knowledge of services was asked of respondents and most reported no knowledge of services prior to receiving grant. Diana reported that per the survey, businesses reported the challenges including staffing, uncertainty, increased costs, loss of business and lack of communication.

5.4 Receive Update on the Next Round of COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program Funded by County Board of Supervisors

Diana Marin (staff) presented the item which was include as part of the agenda. Diana stated that there were a total of 63 applications during the 3-week open application period, 50 of which were potentially eligible. Most applications were submitted for businesses in the Nipomo area. Applications were received throughout the county including Oceano, Avila Beach, Cambria, Cayucos, Templeton, Los Osos, Santa Margarita, San Simeon and unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, and Arroyo Grande. There were at total of \$82,000 of County general funds allocated to the grants. Of the 50 potentially eligible businesses, 44 employ less than 10 people, 5 employ 11-25 people, and only 1 employs 26-50 people.

6. Council Member Workforce Development Updates:

Chair Gomer: opened the floor to updates from the Committee membership Isiah Gomer shared that Verena Latona-Tahlman will be assuming chair responsibility as he will be stepping down from the council, Chuck Jehle, Judy Mahan, and Verena Latona-Tahlman shared updates.

7. Next Meeting:

August 19, 2021 9:00am-10:30am
Virtual Zoom Meeting

8. Adjournment:

Chair Gomer: adjourned the meeting at 2:31 P.M.

I, Diana Marin, Clerk of the Business Council of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held Thursday, June 18, 2021 by the Business Council of the Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo County.

Diana Marin, Business Council Clerk

Dated: June 23, 2021